



**Homeland
Security**

Fact Sheet: U.S. – Canada Land Borders

US-VISIT: GOALS

- Enhance the security of our citizens and visitors
- Facilitate legitimate travel and trade
- Ensure the integrity of our immigration system
- Protect the privacy of our visitors

US-VISIT: AN OVERVIEW

US-VISIT is a top priority for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security because it enhances security for our citizens and visitors while facilitating legitimate travel and trade across our borders. US-VISIT helps to secure our borders, facilitates the entry and exit process, and enhances the integrity of our immigration system while respecting the privacy of our visitors.

US-VISIT is part of a continuum of security measures that begins overseas and continues through a visitor's arrival and departure from the United States. It incorporates eligibility determinations made by both the Departments of Homeland Security and State.

In those cases where a visa is issued by the Department of State, biometrics such as digital, inkless fingerscans and digital photographs allow the Department of Homeland Security to determine whether the person applying for entry to the United States is the same person who was issued the visa by the Department of State. Additionally, the biometric and biographic data are checked against watch lists, improving the Department of Homeland Security's ability to make admissibility decisions as well as the Department of State's ability to make visa determinations.

Biometric identifiers help us freeze a visitor's identity so that we may match the visitor with his/her travel documents. Biometrics protect our visitors by making it virtually impossible

for anyone else to claim their identity should their biometrically-enhanced travel documents (such as a visa) be stolen or duplicated.

US-VISIT entry procedures are currently in place at 115 airports and 15 seaports. Exit procedures are being piloted in four airports and one seaport and will be operational in additional airports and seaports within the next few months. By December 31, 2004, US-VISIT entry procedures will be implemented in the secondary inspection areas at the 50 busiest land ports of entry and to all secondary inspection areas at all remaining land ports of entry by December 31, 2005. A list of the 50 busiest land ports of entry can be found in Appendix A.

US-VISIT: WHO IS PROCESSED AT THE LAND BORDER

Applicability to Foreign Visitors

Today, foreign visitors (with some exemptions), including visitors traveling under the VWP, applying for admission at a U.S. land border must complete arrival/departure Form I-94 - usually issued in the secondary inspection area. After December 31, 2004, the secondary inspection procedures will include US-VISIT processing; the collection of two index fingerscans on an inkless device and a digital photograph. US-VISIT procedures at land ports will take only seconds during the secondary inspection process. Additionally, with the deployment of US-VISIT, visitors will no longer have to complete the arrival/departure Form I-94 by hand. The visitor's biographic information will be entered electronically when the officer scans the travel document.

Applicability to Canadian Citizens

Most citizens of Canada are not subject to the US-VISIT process including:

- Canadian citizens who are visa exempt.
- Canadian citizens traveling on Canadian passports with diplomatic visas or visas for international organizations (A, G or NATO).
- Canadian citizens who are studying or working in the U.S., who normally do not have a non-immigrant visa in their passport.
- Canadian citizens who are permanent residents of the United States.
- Children under 14 and persons over the age of 79 are exempt.
- Applicants for admission at primary vehicle inspection presenting a valid, unexpired, multiple-entry Form I-94 may be admitted without being subject to secondary inspection even if the applicant is not yet enrolled in US-VISIT.

NOTE: Customs and Border Protection Officers retain the discretion to refer a traveler for US-VISIT processing as part of the inspections process if there is a concern about the nature of travel.

Canadians who are subject to the US-VISIT process include:

- Citizens of Canada applying for admission with a non-immigrant visa such as Canadian citizens with K visas (fiancés) and E visas (treaty trade investors).
- Canadian permanent residents. Under U.S. regulations, Canadian permanent residents are identified by their citizenship (i.e., the nationality of the passport that they carry), not by the fact that they may be permanently residing in another country such as Canada.
- Canadians with dual nationality who present a non-Canadian passport when seeking to enter the United States.

Others who are subject to the US-VISIT process include:

- Current Canadian permanent residents who are participants in NEXUS and/or FAST who may be required to enroll in US-VISIT when they renew their multiple entry Form I-94s.
- Visitors renewing their multiple-entry Form I-94. All current, valid Form I-94s remain in effect. US-VISIT biometric collection requirements will be either at the time of the next issuance of the Form I-94 or at the discretion of the Customs and Border Protection Officer.

US-VISIT: USING NEW TECHNOLOGIES

- The Department of Homeland Security continues to work closely with the Department of State, building on the biographic and biometric collection that is underway at U.S. consulates around the world. As of October 2004, all 211 visa-issuing posts overseas are collecting biometric data from visa applicants.
- The Department of Homeland Security is working in partnership with the private sector to identify entry/exit solutions that work in the unique land border environment.

US-VISIT: FACILITATING LEGITIMATE TRAVEL AND TRADE

- The land border solution will be designed to be fast and easy, but also secure. Both the President of the United States and the United States Congress mandated that border security enhancements not adversely affect legitimate travel and trade. The Department of Homeland Security is committed to meeting that mandate.

- We are currently looking at ways to better use technology to facilitate travel and collect entry and exit data. To that end, we are planning to provide each visitor with a unique identifier that is capable of being read automatically, passively, and remotely using Radio Frequency technology during exit and reentry at select primary entry/exit lanes at one or more land ports of entry. These plans are not part of the statutory mandate for December 31, 2004.

US-VISIT: RESPECTING PRIVACY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- US-VISIT has published a Privacy Impact Assessment that ensures that personal information is used appropriately, protected from misuse and improper disclosure, and destroyed when no longer needed. This will be updated as necessary.
- Personal data will be securely stored and is made available only to authorized officials on a need-to-know basis to help protect the nation against those who intend harm to U.S. citizens or visitors and to ensure integrity in our immigration system.
- A US-VISIT privacy officer is available to answer questions or resolve concerns and may be contacted by sending an email to usvisitprivacy@dhs.gov, or by writing to the Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security, Washington DC 20528, USA, ATTN: US-VISIT Appeal. Information on the US-VISIT privacy program is available at www.dhs.gov/us-visit.
- US-VISIT complies with all environmental laws and regulations.

APPENDIX A

50 Busiest Land Ports of Entry (By FY-2002 Estimated Crossings)

Listed in Order of Estimated Start Date for Enrollment of Visitors in US-VISIT

The Department of Homeland Security, Border and Transportation Security Directorate published a notice in the *Federal Register* on November 9, 2004 that identifies the 50 most trafficked Land Ports of Entry where US-VISIT will be implemented by December 31, 2004:

Land Port of Entry	State
<i>Estimated Start Date of November 15, 2004</i>	
Port Huron – Blue Water Bridge	MI
Douglas	AZ
Laredo–Lincoln Bridge – Juarez	TX
Gateway to the Americas International Bridge	TX
Laredo – Columbia Solidarity Bridge	TX
World Trade Bridge – Laredo IV	TX
<i>Estimated Start Date of December 6, 2004</i>	
Niagara Falls – to include Lewiston-Queenstown Bridge, Whirlpool, and Rainbow Bridges	NY
Peace Bridge – Buffalo	NY
Detroit Ambassador Bridge	MI
Detroit Windsor Tunnel	MI
Lukeville	AZ
Deconcini – Nogales East	AZ
Mariposa – Nogales West	AZ
San Luis	AZ
Andrade	CA
Calexico East – Imperial Valley	CA
Calexico West	CA
<i>Estimated Start Date of December 13, 2004</i>	
Fabens	TX
Presidio	TX
Santa Teresa	NM
Otay Mesa	CA
San Ysidro	CA
Tecate	CA
Pacific Highway – Blaine	WA
Peace Arch – Blaine	WA
Lynden	WA
Point Roberts	WA
Sumas	WA

<i>Estimated Start Date of December 20, 2004</i>	
Champlain	NY
Massena	NY
Thousand Islands	NY
Sault Ste. Marie	MI
Bridge of the Americas	TX
Paso del Norte	TX
Ysleta	TX
Derby Line	VT
Calais – Ferry Point	ME
International Falls	MN
<i>Estimated Start Date of December 27, 2004</i>	
Gateway International Bridge	TX
Brownsville/Matamoros Bridge	TX
Hidalgo	TX
Los Indios	TX
Los Tomates/Veterans International Bridge	TX
Pharr	TX
Progreso	TX
Rio Grande City	TX
Roma	TX
Del Rio	TX
Eagle Pass Bridge I	TX
Eagle Pass Bridge II	TX

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